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FEBRUARY 14.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

On the resemblance of the primitive foraminifera and of ovarian Ova.—Prof. RYDER remarked that upon cutting sections of nearly mature ovarian ova with their investing membrane, zona radiata, in place, it was found that, in quite a number of cases, fine protoplasmic processes or pseudopods extended from the peripheral layer of protoplasm of the egg, through its capsule or zona and joined the cells of the granulosa or discus proligerus. This arrangement reminded one forcibly of the filamentous pseudopods extended from a Heliozoön or of the slender pseudopods extended through the perforations in the walls of the single chambers of *Globigerina*. This resemblance was all the more suggestive if one will compare a section of one of the chambers of a *Globigerina* made through the calcareous shell and its contained protoplasm with a similar section through the ovum of the Gar Pike, where the zona is formed of pillars of homogenous matter. Such prolongations of pseudopods through the investing zona radiata in the case of many species of animal forms, shows fairly well that this must be the principal means by which new matter is taken up from without and incorporated, as there is no direct extension of the vascular system into the egg, by which it can take up nutriment. It is thus seen that the early stages of the growing ovum, not only resemble some of the lower forms of Heliozoa and *Foraminifera* as respects the grade of their morphological differentiation but also as to the mode in which they exhibit their nutritive or physiological activities. This resemblance is still further heightened if a form like *Orbulina* is compared with certain stages of the development of ova. It is thus seen that, in many cases, the ovarian germ, at least, passes through a stage which may be morphologically as well as physiologically compared with some of the lowest grades of the *Protozoa*.

Chaetopterus from Florida.—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to specimens which were collected in the trip of Prof. Heilprin and Mr. Willcox, at the mouth of the Manatee River. The species appears to be the *Chaetopterus pergamentaceus* of Cuvier, originally described from specimens from the West Indies. It is a remarkable form. It belongs to the Tubicolae or tube-living worms, but unlike most of these, is devoid of the numerous cephalic appendages, or tentacles and gills. The tube is membranous and laminated in structure and it has the appearance of parchment. The two tubes collected are 16 inches long by $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch in diameter, and tapering towards the ends. An incomplete worm, not well preserved on account of its delicacy, in its present condition is 9 inches long,

and appears very narrow in comparison with the capacity of its tube. The anterior division of the body, about an inch long, is flattened, and about half as wide, but narrowing behind, and is composed of eight podal segments provided with dense bunches of lustrous, golden setae. The succeeding segment, long and narrow, is provided with a pair of wing-like appendages an inch long, and each furnished with two bundles of diverging setae. Then follow five long narrow segments with large membranous appendages, without setae. The terminal segments, of which 15 remain in the specimen, are furnished with pairs of long pointed appendages with bundles of setae.

FEBRUARY 21.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“Researches upon the general physiology of Nerves and Muscles.”

By Henry C. Chapman M. D. and A. P. Brubacker M. D.

“Notes on an aquatic insect larva with jointed dorsal appendages.”

By Adele M. Fielde.

Necessity for Revising the Nomenclature of American Spiders.—Dr. McCook remarked that during the summer of 1887, while visiting the Zoological Library of the British Museum of Natural History, he gained information which may revolutionize, or at least compel a radical revision of the nomenclature of American spiders.

His interest in these animals being known by some of the zoologists in the room, his attention was called to a volume of unpublished figures of American spiders then in the library. These drawings were made by Mr. John Abbot, an Englishman settled in Savannah during the latter part of the eighteenth century. The figures were made as early as 1792. At least they bear that date. Mr. Abbot is well known to entomologists by his work upon lepidoptera, published in connection with Mr. Smith.¹ This book proved to be the volumes, long supposed to be lost, of original drawings from which Baron Walckenaer described the numerous species from Georgia which are found in his *Natural History of Apterous Insects*.²

¹ “The Natural History of the rarer lepidopterous insects of Georgia. Including their systematic characters, the particulars of their several metamorphoses and the plants on which they feed. Collected from the observations of Mr. John Abbot, many years resident in that country, by James Edward Smith M. D. 2 Vol's, fol. London, 1797.”

² *Histoire Naturelle des Insectes. Aptères. Vols. I. and II. Suites a Buffon. 1837.*